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SUBJECT: SEOUL - MEDIA REACTION

Subject: Media Reaction; Seoul

East Asia and Pacific: North Korea's new initiatives, nuclear program, Six-Party Talks

"FIRST U.S.- N. KOREA CONTACT SINCE THE LAUNCH OF THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION SHOULD LEAD TO THE NORTH'S RETURN TO SIX-PARTY TALKS"

Right-of-center JoongAng Ilbo editorialized (10/26): "It appears that North Korea's (recent actions) are aimed at easing international sanctions which have intensified and disrupting cooperation between the ROK, the U.S. and Japan. Following the North's second nuclear test, the three countries implemented a two-track approach of 'pressure and dialogue' to resolve the nuclear issue. This approach should be maintained until the North takes irreversible steps toward denuclearization. ... The North's current flurry of peace overtures should not in any way lead to a hasty lifting of sanctions against the country."

STEPHENS